

## House Resolution 502

By: Representatives Epps of the 131<sup>st</sup>, Smith of the 102<sup>nd</sup> and Brown of the 130<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the establishment of the Town of Cannonville in Troup County, Georgia,  
2 and urging the Department of Natural Resources to include the Cannonville community  
3 within the Georgia Register of Historic Places; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, William Sherman Cannon founded the Town of Cannonville in 1900; and

5 WHEREAS, William Sherman Cannon was the son of former slaves Mercer and Fannie  
6 (Young) Cannon and was born in Cross Hill, South Carolina, on July 11, 1868; and

7 WHEREAS, William Sherman Cannon was so named in honor of his father's work during  
8 the Civil War as the favorite cannoneer of Union General William Tecumseh Sherman; and

9 WHEREAS, William Sherman Cannon established a United States post office in Cannonville  
10 and served as its postmaster from 1901 to 1905; and

11 WHEREAS, his fellow Cannonville residents included Emma Jackson, Eliza and J. C.  
12 McCord, Laura Rosser, Jasper Cameron, J. C. Roper, and J. W. Gore; and

13 WHEREAS, William Sherman Cannon was educated at Claflin College in Orangeburg, SC,  
14 and continued his education at Knoxville College and Morris Brown College in Atlanta,  
15 Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, the Town of Cannonville was a realization of his dream of establishing  
17 self-sufficient and self-sustaining colonies of black Americans; and

18 WHEREAS, he was the founder of the Independent Benevolent Order in 1896 and was a  
19 member of the Odd Fellows, Masons, Knights of Pythias, the Republican Party, and the  
20 AME church; and

1 WHEREAS, William Sherman Cannon was an educator, entrepreneur, and editor of the  
2 semi-monthly newspaper, The Truth; and

3 WHEREAS, the son of William Sherman Cannon and Lula B. Latham was William Sherman  
4 Cannon, Jr., known as "W. S.," who was the founder of the Cannolene Cosmetics Company  
5 of Atlanta, one of the first African American owned cosmetic manufacturers in the United  
6 States and who was father of two sons: William Sherman Cannon and Robert Oliver  
7 Cannon, a graduate of Fisk University, a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and the  
8 husband of Hazel Roberta Bell; and

9 WHEREAS, the grandson of William Sherman Cannon and Lula B. Latham was William  
10 Sherman Cannon, known as "William," a graduate of Howard University and a member of  
11 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity who was a decorated U. S. Army veteran of World War II, an  
12 educator, an entrepreneur, and the husband of Beverly Moss; and

13 WHEREAS, the great-grandson of William Sherman Cannon and Lula B. Latham is William  
14 Sherman Cannon, known as "Bill," a graduate of Hampton Institute University, a member  
15 of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and an entrepreneur who founded the W S Cannon Company,  
16 a marketing firm, and is one of the founders and the first executive director of the Georgia  
17 Summit of African American Business Organizations and the husband of Linda Jean Cannon,  
18 M. D.; and

19 WHEREAS, the great-great-grandson of William Sherman Cannon and Lula B. Latham is  
20 William Sherman Cannon VI, known as "Six," whose name proudly recognizes six  
21 generations of free Americans of African ancestry; and

22 WHEREAS, Cannonville no longer exists as a political subdivision of the State of Georgia  
23 but remains as a beautiful community in southwest Troup County alongside the former  
24 Atlanta and West Point Railroad.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 the members of this body recognize the historic significance of the Town of Cannonville and  
27 salute its past, current, and future citizens.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body commend the courage and  
29 vision of the founder of Cannonville, William Sherman Cannon, and his descendants for their  
30 valuable contributions to the State of Georgia and to the United States.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Historic Preservation of the Department  
2 of Natural Resources is urged to recognize the historic significance of the Town of  
3 Cannonville, to take efforts to include the Cannonville community in the Georgia Register  
4 of Historic Places, and to take appropriate measures to publicly acknowledge the Cannonville  
5 community as a historic district duly marked.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
7 and directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to William Sherman "Bill" Cannon.